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USSR MINISTRIES LAG IN 1949 HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

/Numbers in parentheses refer to the sources listed at the end./

Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises

The progress of housing construction by the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises was discussed at a session of the Second Plenum of the VtsSPS on 20 August. D. Ya. Rayzer, Vice Minister of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises, stated in his report that the ministry is building a great amount of housing as well as heavy industry enterprises. The volume of this construction work has steadily increased.

The Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises completed 582,000 square meters of housing in 1947, 884,000 square meters in 1948, and must construct 1,192,000 square meters of housing in 1949. However, the ministry has failed to construct during 1949 thousands of square meters of housing space for metallurgical, chemical, and machine-building industry workers. It completed only 347,000 of the 418,000 square meters planned during the first half of 1949. Moreover, the July results show that the building organizations are still operating unsatisfactorily.

The construction of homes for workers at the Magnitogorsk Combine, the Makeyevka and Yenakiyevo plants, Ural Heavy Machinery Plant, Lipetsk and Kharkov tractor plants, Novo-Tul'skiy and Zlatoust metallurgical plants, and the Gorlovka, Dneprodzerzhinsk, and Dnepropetrovsk coke and chemical plants has been inadequate.

Rayzer remarked that directors of construction organizations and main administrations of the ministry devote more attention to industrial construction than to housing. Industrial methods and mechanization used in constructing industrial buildings should be applied to housing construction, he said. (1)

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The Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises completed only 66.4 percent of the 1948 plan for housing construction and was completely unsatisfactory in meeting the 6-month 1949 plan (2), although the volume of housing construction during the first half of 1949 increased 38 percent over the same period of 1948. Out of 63 trusts of the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises, only 28 trusts fulfilled the 6-month plan. Only one third of the year plan for volume of construction work was completed by the ministry in the first 6 months.

The main reason for the lag in construction work is insufficient mechanization. Industrial, assembly-line construction methods are used by many builders in Moscow, Leningrad, Magnitogorsk, Zaporozh'ye, Stalingrad, and other cities. However, not everywhere are these methods applied. As an example, we mention two large industrial centers in the Urals, Nizhniy Tagil and Chelyabinsk. Two large trusts operate in these cities, the Tagil Trust headed by Kratenko, and the Chelyabinsk Trust headed by Terent'yev. The working conditions of both trusts are similar, but the results are different. While the Tagil Trust completed only two thirds of the 6-month plan for housing construction, the Chelyabinsk Trust exceeded the plan. A comparison of both operations shows that problems of mechanization and labor organization are neglected in Nizhniy Tagil, while they are given primary consideration in Chelyabinsk. (3)

The quality of work done on many buildings is unsatisfactory. The ministry and its main administrations are not taking active measures for completing the plan for mechanization of construction operations. The Second Plenum of the VTsSFS, in considering this problem, drew up a concrete plan providing an increase in the rate of housing construction and in improvement of its quality, improvement of labor organization, and increase in the control on the progress of housing construction. The plenum gave considerable attention to improving the housing and cultural services for construction workers. (2)

Housing construction has recently been handled to a large extent by non-construction enterprises, such as coal combines, metallurgical and other plants. In spite of the fact that these enterprises have no building experience, they exceed their construction plans, sometimes by 100 percent, while the specialized construction trusts fail to meet their production quotas. This has happened in the past and again in 1949 in the Kuzbass, where only one out of three trusts fulfilled the plan. A similar situation exists in the Urals and in the Donbass. (3)

In the last few years, building organizations of the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises have restored and built over 2 million square meters of housing, as well as a large number of schools, hospitals, clubs, kindergartens, bathing establishments, laundry establishments, and stores, for enterprises in various branches of industry. However, the following administrations and trusts have been unable to meet their quotas: "Glavchermetstroy Vostoka" (Main Administration for Construction of Ferrous Metallurgy Enterprises of the East), "Glavuralstroy" (Main Administration for Construction of Ural Enterprises), "Glavsibredazstroy" (Main Administration for Construction of Siberian and Central Asian Enterprises), "Tagilstroy" Trust, Makeyevka Construction Trust, and "Magnitostroy" Trust.

The ministry is not meeting the plan for construction of new house-building combines and the production of prefabricated houses, as well as the plan for production of construction materials in existing enterprises. (4)

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Ministry of Metallurgical Industry

According to collective agreements for 1949, more than one billion rubles have been allocated for construction of housing in the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry. Metallurgical workers should obtain 760,000 square meters of housing during 1949; 89,000 square meters of housing is to be constructed for sale to workers, and aid will be given for the construction of more than 3,000 individual houses. The agreements provide also for construction of 68 clubs and cultural centers, 41 bathhouses and laundries, 49 schools, 18 polyclinics and hospitals, 37 children's nurseries and 70 kindergartens.

Since the beginning of 1949, there has been a serious lag in housing construction for the industry. In 6 months, only 208,000 square meters of housing or 27.4 percent of the year plan, were completed.

A new workers' settlement of 40 slag concrete houses is under construction at the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Plant imeni Karl Libknekht.

The majority of metallurgical enterprises in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast exceeded the 6-month housing construction plan, and more than 17,500 square meters of housing have been built. (5)

Housing Construction in Khabarovsk Kray

From 1 January to 1 August 1949, 49 percent of the plan for capital construction by Khabarovsk Kray enterprises was completed; 55 percent of the year plan for housing construction was completed during that period. Since the beginning of 1949, 31,500 square meters of housing have been put into service.

Enterprises of the Ministry of Fish Industry have not been utilizing funds satisfactorily and completed only 42 percent of the year plan for capital construction in 7 months. (6)

SOURCES

1. Trud, No 197, 21 Aug 49
2. V Pomoshch' FZMK, Vol 10, No 17, Sep 49
3. Izvestiya, No 207, 2 Sep 49
4. V Pomoshch' FZMK, Vol 10, No 18, Sep 49
5. V Pomoshch' FZMK, Vol 10, No 16, Aug 49
6. Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 197, 21 Aug 49

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